

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SP, MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN CLAIM TO CEUTA AND MELILLA

REFS: A. RABAT 634

B. MADRID 825

1. DEPT CONCERNED THAT ASSERTION OF MOROCCAN CLAIMS AT THIS TIME TO SPANISH ENCLAVES WILL COMPLICATE ALREADY STRAINED U.S.-SPANISH RELATIONS AT DELICATE POINT IN CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS. WHETHER OR NOT MOROCCAN INITIATIVE REPORTED REFTELS IS PLOY TO KEEP PRESSURE ON SPANISH SAHARA OR PRESERVE FRAGILE INTERNAL MOROCCAN UNITY, GOS IS STILL SMARTING OVER UNGA OUTCOME ON SPANISH SAHARA AND SUSPICIOUS OF U.S. INTENTIONS. GOS REMAINS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO CURRENT U.S. ARMS POLICY TOWARD MOROCCO AND THUS QUICK TO PICK UP WHATEVER SIGNS THEY MAY PERCEIVE REGARDING U.S. SUPPORT FOR GOM AT

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SPAIN'S EXPENSE. FURTHER, THE MERITS OF MOROCCAN

CLAIMS TO ENCLAVES ARE DEBATABLE AND U.S. IN NO CASE
WOULD WISH TO BE DRAWN INTO DISPUTE.

2. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, YOU SHOULD APPROACH FOREIGN
MINISTRY AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND MAKE FOLLOWING
POINTS IN LOW-KEY MANNER:

A. USG CONTINUES TO PLACE HIGH VALUE ON GOOD RELATIONS

WITH MOROCCO, EVEN VOTING WITH MOROCCO ON SPANISH
SAHARA AT UNGA, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL
RECALL CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THAT VOTE.

B. U.S. POLICY REGARDING SPANISH SAHARA CONTINUES TO
STRESS NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, WITH U.S. ITSELF NEUTRAL
ON MERITS OF CLAIMS.

C. WE HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED THAT GOM OFFICIALS CONTINUE
TO TELL US OF MOROCCO'S DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH
SPAIN, AND CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY GOM WOULD NOW CHOOSE
TO PRESS CONTROVERSIAL CLAIMS TO CEUTA AND MELILLA.

D. U.S. WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AS WELL AS
MOROCCO. ACCORDINGLY, GOM SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT
U.S. FIRMLY RESOLVED TO STAY OUT OF THESE TERRITORIAL
QUESTIONS AND GOM CAN EXPECT NO U.S. SUPPORT ON THIS
ISSUE. THIS POSITION WILL ALSO BE CONVEYED TO SPAIN.
KISSINGER

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